



P R O F I C I E N C Y P A C K

M E L A N I E B E Y N O N

Us and the Architecture & Design process//

Our approach

At Melanie Beynon Architecture & Design we take an holistic and integrative approach to client projects, uniting classic and contemporary, tradition and innovation to create timeless designs.

Amplifying wellbeing, sustainability, balance and harmony are at the heart of our design philosophy.

We thrive on the challenge of transforming homes into a high-performing, multi-functional spaces that can sustain the changing needs of occupants over the long-term.

Co-creation through collaboration

Our designs are driven by the passions and interests of our clients. We would love the opportunity to combine our expertise with your vision to create a bespoke, healthy home that reflects your values, meets your current and future needs and aspirations and promotes relaxation, restoration and respite from the demands of daily life.

End-to-end service

With qualifications in interior design and architecture, we are uniquely placed, providing a client-responsive, integrated interior design and architecture service, tailored to suit the context and purpose of your space. Our integrated service and our extensive experience give our clients the freedom to dream big, secure in the knowledge that their concept will be reflected in the built outcome.

We offer established sustainability practices, an extensive personal and referral network, with a focus on quality and consistency from conception through to the final product.

About us

Based in Melbourne, our award-winning design and architecture studio draws on Director and Interior Designer/Architect, Melanie Beynon's extensive catalogue of high-end local and international retail, residential and hospitality experience, garnered over 20 years working in interior design and 10 years in architecture.

We draw on a catalogue of award-winning local and international design project experience to create a unique, enduring, tailored design. Our studio provides elegant, customised architecture, interiors, décor and object design that amplifies and empowers clients to thrive in sustainable, healthy homes, wellbeing and work environments. We design spaces that engage the senses, combine form and function and create an intentional relationship between your home and its immediate environment.

As a small studio, we pride ourselves on providing a personalised service that is efficient, responsive and centers around listening to, and integrating, each client's vision and aspirations. Our established team has been recognised for its exceptional client service. With a proven track record of rigorous research, clear communication and creative and timeless design that unite tradition and innovation, we provide sustainable healthy, built solutions that transform spaces and elevate occupants' moods and lifestyle.





Our team

Melanie Beynon Director, Architect & Interior Designer

During her extensive career Melanie has built up a wealth of connections and experience, producing an impressive catalogue of high-profile, high-end retail, residential and hospitality projects overseas and in Australia. These include hospitality designs for celebrity chefs Gordon Ramsay and Marco Pierre White, the Prince of Wales Hotel and award-winning wine store, Amaru for renowned chef Clinton McIver and the ground-breaking wellness project, Willow Urban Retreat. Recently Chandon Homestead and MBAD studio have been Highly Commended.

Winner of the Workplace category in the Australian Interior Design Awards 2020.

Winner Timber Awards 2023 - Residential Design for Elsternwick House



Tama Abeynaike, Interior Designer & Graduate Architect

Tama has worked within our team for ten years. She is a graduate of Monash Interior Architecture and she has recently graduated as an Architect. Perfectly suited to the ethos of a holistic approach to design that we represent. Tama's outstanding visual communication skills provide conceptual clarity for our clients.

Tama has been a resident teaching associate at Monash University's Art Design and Architecture faculty. She has been involved with the delivery of the following projects.

Project Lead

Mirosuna
Melbourne Loft
Pahran House
Northcote House
Princes Hill House
Prismatic House



Daphne Spanos, Registered Architect

Daphne is a registered Architect with a passion for dual discipline architectural and interior design projects. Daphne gained early career experience in several large design practices where she discovered her passion for bespoke residential design and heritage alterations and additions.

Having joined MBAD in 2024, she has most recently worked on both the architectural and interiors scopes of MBAD projects such as Armadale House and Chandon Homestead.

More recently, Daphne has worked on the art and furniture selection for single residential projects.

Sustainability

Our designs are innovative and environmentally sustainable. We carefully consider every element in a project, seeking to optimise and amplify the space and the health of its inhabitants, while lowering the building's footprint.

We believe good architecture and design is grounded in wellness and sustainability principles. We use natural and ethically sourced materials, "healthy" finishes, finely crafted fixtures and furnishings to create a customised space that enhances human health and is also good for the environment. These include low-VOC paints and substrates, natural lighting, passive heating and cooling, repurposed and recycled materials, sustainable flooring and energy-efficient appliances.

We take an 'inside-out' approach to design, anchoring the architecture around the strength of the interior, as the focus, so the architecture heightens the interior response. Our designs create an intentional relationship between their immediate external and local environments, successfully connecting the built space with the surrounding natural environment, creating a sense of circulation, expansiveness and flow between the spaces.

Our own studio practices reflects this ethos placing a minimal impact on the environment. We actively seek alternative travel methods to the car. We produce minimal waste. Source energy from responsible suppliers.

Awards & nominations

In 2020, our studio won the prestigious Australian Interior Design award for the best workplace for their design of the purpose-built studio for fabric and textile wholesaler, Warwick.

Winner of Australian Interior Design Awards 2020 - Workplace Design for Warwick Creative Studio.

Winner Timber Awards 2023 - Residential Design for Elsternwick House

Highly Commended Aust Interior Design Awards 2023 - Workplace < 1000m2 MBAD studio

Shortlisted Hospitality Design Australian Interior Design Awards 2025 - Chandon Homestead





Testimonials

"We had put off renovating for years as we didn't know where to start and how to make it happen.

Melanie was there to drive it forward when hard decisions needed to be made and gave us the confidence to move forward with the right advice.

She worked seamlessly with our builder and all issues were worked out and dealt with professionally. She guided the right choices but in way that made us feel we were always in control of our house. She took inspiration from us and respected our choices and style.

We are over the moon with the final product which exceeded our expectations by a long way and our new floor plan works brilliantly with everyone in the family having their own space. Throughout the project Melanie and her team were a pleasure to work with."

Nicole and Shannon Magowan

"Having worked with Melanie in a professional capacity on a number of projects, we were very comfortable engaging her to work with us on our home, and she did not disappoint.

She is considered, listens, has a skill of understanding the brief, and is also efficient with her time. We absolutely love our house. In large part this is due to the influence of Melanie's design.

The design needed to be functional to support our boisterous family, suit the style of the house and of course we wanted it to look amazing!

She listened to our brief and came up with a design which, with simplicity and consistency, met our brief and is also a great reflection of our individual style. Our renovation was 7 years ago and it has definitely stood the test of time. We would not hesitate to recommend Melanie.

Meg & Nigel Brown

"We feel very lucky to have found Melanie for our renovation project. It was important to us that we were able to make a contribution and integrate our inspiration and ideas into the final design. Melanie helped us distil and refine these into an elevated design that we are truly proud.

It was clear to us from the first time we met Melanie that she was the right architect for us. Her sense of timeless style married with an in-depth knowledge of the industry made the decision to engage her for our project an easy one. We felt immediately connected with Melanie as she shared an excitement and enthusiasm for our project. She was proactive and responsive to our inputs whilst offering a huge amount of knowledge. We were oblivious to the challenges that would confront us as we embarked on the construction process but Melanie's connections and teamworking ability meant she was by our side throughout and we have no doubt that none of what we have achieved would have been possible without her.

Now we have completed our project and reflect back on the process, the difficulties and challenges we faced start to fade but we are continually reminded of the significant contributions Melanie played in the design of our home. From the subtle design features in the perfectly considered curves to the practical layout of the kitchen, Melanie has been instrumental in building a home that is more refined in its design than we could have ever dreamed of and one that we will be proud of for years to come."

Alex Harding & Matt Squire

Working with Melanie Beynon Architecture & Design

As an end-to-end interior design and architecture studio our services are more cost effective, time efficient and cohesive. With fewer parties involved, you avoid conflicting agendas. As registered architects we can allow each phase to naturally flow on from one to the other.

Each project begins with a seed, a concept sparked by our clients' passions, values and interests. We pride ourselves on our listening skills, working closely with all our clients to integrate their concerns and desires in the final design. Our process is highly consultative, we seek client approval at the end of every phase of the project.

Our services

As part of our integrated service we offer:

- master and strategic planning
- concept, research and design development
- town planning applications and permits
- contract documentation 2D and 3D packages
- onsite administration
- furniture and styling services
- regular inspection of works to check quality compliance with documents and report on program.

Fee proposal and feasibility

As a first step we arrange a phone call, google meet and finally a face-to-face meeting and site visit to establish whether we can work together to meet your aspirations. At this meeting, we get a sense of the scope of the work and the proposed budget and assess any potential obstacles.

Based on this information and our considerable expertise and experience, we craft a clear brief that outlines a realistic budget and timeline, as well as addressing and minimising any potential problems at the outset.

This information is presented in a fee for services for discussion and sign-off. This fee outline is broken down into the various phases of the design and building process. We talk our clients through this proposal to inform and educate them about this unique experience. We wish for the experience to be a guided journey of learning, good communication and expectation management.

We offer the Services one by one where a client may move with ease and confidence taking on each phase as they feel satisfied.





Concept design

Upon appointment we attend site. At this meeting, we measure the site, and conduct a photographic survey. Appoint a Land Surveyor to survey the site for any architectural scope and future town planning application.

We use your budget as a starting point, and work with you to define the scope that will suit your budget. We test the proposed budget with a quantity surveyor or builder to ensure its accuracy. Also useful for a client to prioritise and make alterations to the scope or budget.

This phase is about transforming design ideas into visual illustrations that give you a sense of the scale and scope of the proposed design and it's spaces. At this stage we provide a digital presentation of architecture and interior drawings, concept designs, plans, elevations and new layouts, along with some physical materials, such as samples or outline 3D modelling (where that scale of the project requires) to show you the volume and form of the proposed architecture and space. At the end of this phase, you should get a strong sense of the proposed space and that the design meets with your vision.

We consider and incorporate some or all of the following into the concept design brief:

- Planning Building Constraints
- Relationship between interior and exterior
- Connection, Flow & zoning
- Natural & Artificial Lighting
- Heating & Appliances
- Material Selection
- Acoustics
- Storage
- External & Outdoor connection

Design development

The design development phase is about finalising the scope of work for detailed design and confirming a fee for remaining services. During this phase, we refine the layout, specify key finishes and present your unique design through a package of drawings and sketches for your review and feedback, along with an equipment schedule and a list of fixtures, fittings and furnishings. We encourage clients to visit lighting showrooms and to finalise their services layout plan before moving onto the next phase.

We address the sub-consultants required for the project.

This phase includes:

- Detailed 2D plans for sections, floor plans and elevations presented to you with accurate dimensions and coloured to reflect the materials selection
- Develop joinery design
- Technology and services plan
- Selection and scheduling of interior colour scheme, materials & equipment
- Preliminary costing of works sort from builder/s.
- Seek costings from Quantity Surveyoer
- Preliminary building permit drawing prepared for review.
- 3D sketches and renders if scoped.

Town planning

As a registered architect we can help you with the required approvals before your project begins, including town planning and building permits.

As part of this process, we confirm statutory requirements for the planning application with a planning consultant, create and submit drawings, liaise with the planning office.

Contract documentation

At this phase we prepare working documentation drawings around existing and proposed plans for costing and the building permit, along with other specifications and schedules. It is the phase where we spend the most and time refining and detailing. We co-ordinate the various consultants documents into a package that reflects a combined scope. This includes Energy Consultants, Structural Engineering, Specialist Consultants and Services Engineers where required.

Building permit

The building permit phase co-ordinates the Australian Standards regulations into the project documentation set. It triggers the issue of the Building Permit. As a registered Architect we are competent and accredited to complete this phase.

Contractor selection

We assist you in deciding how to best procure your project. Introduce you to builders and guide you through the costing process. We may tender the project to 3-4 builders we have worked with or work with a builder you may have established a prior relationship with. We prepare and issue the tender documents, respond to inquiries from contractors or the Quantity Surveyor and prepare costing reports. We negotiate on your behalf with the chosen contractor and prepare the Contract for the project, where you select us to be the contract third party and perform the role of superintendent.

On Site administration

With the use of the ABIC Simple Works Contract, we can perform the role of contract administrators (superintendent) whereby the builder directs the monthly progress claims to us for verification and certification for payment by the client. We regularly inspect works to check quality compliance with the documents and report back to you. We attend site meetings and prepare a list of defects, contract documents and oversee payment, instructions and variations. During the defects' liability period, we notify the building contractor about any incomplete work and defects that need fixing. At the end of the defects liability period the final certificate is issued.

Expert furniture and accessory advice

We are happy to recommend furniture, linen, window coverings and other accessories options that complement your new interior and suit your budget. With a lead time of up to 14-16 weeks we recommend you make your selection at the start of the onsite period to avoid disappointment. As part of this process, we handle all supplier liaison, coordinate quotes and manage lead times. Clients manage the purchase and delivery details. We can discuss with you how the items are procured.

Fees and expenses

Fees will vary depending on the level of service, customisation and complexity involved in your project. Projects like house extensions and refurbishment can be more resource intensive than new builds and the repair and conservation of historic buildings add another layer of complexity, resulting in higher fees. We outline the approximate fees for services of the sub-consultants required for your project.

Fee options

Our fee is typically calculated as a percentage of the building cost. This may be adjusted if the project's scope is adjusted, in which case we will charge an hourly rate to cover the excess or a revised fee for the adjusted scope of work.

Expenses

Each project attracts a number of additional expenses that cannot be quantified at the outset. These expenses will generally be added to the fee, such as incidentals like the cost of travel, reproduction of drawings and documents, and for making planning or Building Regulations applications and other fees, levies and charges. These will be outlined in detail in the service agreement we provide before any work begins.

Payment

Our preference is that you make progressive payments at the end of each phase or as deliverable milestones are met.



